

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, October 1, 2007 - 2:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 208

Members Present:

Dalon Rosevear (Accounting), Marcus Conklin (Economics), Ingrid Y. Lee (Management Information Systems), Madalina Tanase (Curriculum & Instruction), Katrina Harris (Educational Psychology), Dan Gianoutsos (Educational Leadership), Mia Youhne (Special Education), Dana Massengale (Sports Education Leadership), Lei Zhang (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Saul Opie (Mechanical Engineering), Rebekah Just (Art), Laurene DeBord-Fouk (Film), Oscar Limon (Theatre), Lyndsey Kelly (Health Physics), Donica Beckett (Health Promotion), Sonia Randolph (Kinesiology), Rachel Walker (Public Health), Catherine Andrea Prato (Nursing), Gael Hancock (Hospitality Administration), Jason Frank (Sport & Leisure Activities), Corinne Wurm (Law), Sara Hill (Anthropology), Amber Featherstone (English), Katrina Hall (Foreign Languages), Kelli Brockschmidt (History), Eric Tomas Steiner (Psychology), Candace Griffith (Sociology), Becky Cox-Hess (Chemistry), Colin Roberts (Geosciences), Jason Vance (Life Sciences), Steven Fischer (Mathematical Sciences), Wayn Ward (Physics), Sarah Ewing (Communication Studies), Melanie Taylor (Criminal Justice), Emerald Laija (Environmental Studies), Rachel Wax (Journalism & Media Studies), Sara Pelton (Marriage & Family Therapy), Tyra Jenkins (Public Administration), Gary McCormick (Social Work), Jeremy Ashton Houska (President), Jessica Lucero (Secretary), Suzanne Becker (Treasurer).

Members Absent:

Saidi Siuhi (Civil & Environmental Engineering), Alistair In (Physical Therapy), Jordan Duff (Political Science), Heather Lusty (Vice President).

Others Present:

Liz Baldizan (Dir. of Jean Nidetch Women's Center), Diane Vanderpol (Head Instructional Services Librarian), Dr. Ron Smith (VP of Graduate & Research Studies & Dean of the Graduate College), Dr. Kate Hausbeck (GPSA Faculty Advisor & Sr. Asst. Graduate Dean), Nancy Flagg (Special Assistant to the VP of Research & Graduate Studies), Becky Boulton (GPSA Manager)

I. Roll Call

The GPSA Council Meeting, held in the Moyer Student Union, Room 208 was called to order by President Houska Monday afternoon at 2:01 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

President Houska entertained a motion to approve the September 2007 meeting minutes and upon a motion by Kelli Brockschmidt (History) and seconded by Catherine Andrea Prato (Nursing), the minutes were approved.

III. Speakers

- Introduction of GPSA Faculty Advisors, Dr. Kate Hausbeck:
Kate Hausbeck announced the reassignment of Graduate College evaluators. She recommended that the Council and constituents look at the new Graduate College website and asked if we have any concerns to let the Graduate College know. She also mentioned that Rob Scheinkopf is the new director of admissions.

The Graduate College is offering a new service in the office of graduate student advising. This is not academic advising. What they will do is help with other problems/questions that come up along way. This office is staffed by Fred Krauss and Deedee Severin.

The new graduate catalog is available online in pdf. format on the Graduate College website, or students can go to the bookstore and buy a copy on CD ROM for \$5.00. Additionally, the Graduate College is extending its office hours for Wednesdays and Thursdays until 6 p.m. (Graduate College is open every other weekday from 8 a.m.until 5 p.m.). Students can also go online to the Graduate College chat to ask any general questions. Students should go online to check for chat times.

There is an online survey for graduate student financial cost of attendance. They are trying to assess what expenses (clothes, cars, cell phones, etc.) graduate students have. The last survey was done 5 years ago. New numbers might affect student loans, student aid money, and scholarships. **Dr. Hausbeck asks that students please fill this survey out as well as FAFSA forms even if students are not applying for a loan. Scholarships that are given out only go out to students who fill out the FAFSA.**

Provost office is doing a strategic campaign. Focus 50:100. are town hall meetings that are concerned with the following: identity/values, education, and research infrastructures. Dr. Hausbeck encourages students to attend.

- Liz Baldizan: Dir. Baldizan explained that Jean Nidetch originally created Weight Watchers, and also established the UNLV's Women's Center. The center is for everyone as it is a research center. Dr. Baldizan said that every project and grant gift is because of grad/professional student involvement. \$28,000 grants has been received. She would like more graduate/professional student awareness and asks that representatives tell their constituents about the Women's Center.

Laura Zemp, Scholarship Coordinator, explained that her job is to give people money. The majority of scholarships that come from financial aid requires full time attendance, FAFSA, etc. However, the Women's Center donors are more interested in returning graduates. For example, if a student took 6 years off and returns to school, he or she could be eligible for a returning student scholarship. The requirement is that there was at least a three year break in education. There are also other scholarships available and she recommends students look at their website for deadlines. Applications for funds in the Spring are due Friday, October 12 and Fall by April 11.

- Diane Vanderpol: Diane noted that if students don't get money for Women's Center scholarships come to the library. The library staff is hosting workshops in coordination with GPSA Vice President Heather Lusty to help students identify additional opportunities for funding. There will be three workshops divided by discipline for finding funding. She also wanted to make students aware of other workshops available to faculty and grad/prof students. For a list of these, please see the library website: <http://www.library.unlv.edu/>

Diane updated students on a new program called LINK plus, which provides greater access to collections beyond UNLV. UNLV joined other libraries in Utah, Nevada, and parts of California in order to provide a courier service. Students will find that if they search for a work that is not in our library, the catalog will also search other libraries. Essentially this is a self-generated document delivery process. The program will let students know if other libraries have the work and whether or not someone will loan it out. The turn around time seems to be less than a week.

- Dr. Ron Smith announced that there would be a town meeting session on October 2 at 2 p.m. in SU 208 on UNLV identity. He stressed that this institution has been viewed as an undergrad institution for too long, even though graduate student enrollment in last three to four years has steadily

increased. 22% of enrollment is at grad level. Dr. Smith noted that graduate/professional student research is really the future of this institution. He asks that graduate students stop in for 15 to 20 minutes to say their piece.

Dr. Smith then presented a slide-show on Urban Sustainability. Urban Sustainability has been officially launched as an independent office whose initiatives are to partner with community and nation. This office will develop education programs that aid in studying and bettering our environment. Dr. Smith claims that UNLV should be the central place for research and discussions about sustainability and asserts that UNLV is in the middle of paradigm change, which is why it is now important to be a part of this.

The PowerPoint consisted of the mission statement for Urban Sustainability, which serves to improve our quality of life now and in the future. There are three kinds of sustainability: environmental, economics and social-cultural.

The initiative of this outreach, collaboration, and partnership with the community and region is to reach out to small groups, developers, other states, other countries in order to share what we know and learn from others. UNLV will be informed experts and also reach out to faculty and grad/prof students as collaborators.

On October 24, 2007, for one day, over 300 people, including Board of Regent members, local politicians, President Ashley, Vice President and Provost Smatresk, and speakers from ASU and Virginia Tech will be hosting a retreat to discuss sustainability issues that range from environment, economic, and even health sustainability. Dr. Smith asks for volunteers as well as for grad/prof students to attend.

Becky Cox-Hess (Chemistry) asked how members of the community who are not UNLV students or faculty, volunteer or get more information. Dr. Smith advised her to get them in contact with Nancy Flagg.

Rebekah Just (Art) asked what the cost is to attend this event. Dr. Smith announced that there is no cost to attend.

Sara Hill (Anthropology) asked if students could sign up to volunteer from the Graduate College or the Urban Sustainability website. Dr. Smith didn't think this was set up yet and advised that she take down Nancy Flagg's contact information.

Dr. Smith thanked the GPSA and reminded everyone that the event would happen on October 24.

IV. Budget Report

- Treasurer Becker announced that the copy of budget is in the back of the packet. She explained that there hadn't been much activity and referred to line 15, which reflects wages for GPSA staff. Line 30 reflects the operational costs including the August 30 GPSA social, the September Council meeting and routine office supplies. Line 68 indicates revenue generated from incoming student fees. Line 79 reflects the GPSA revenue generated by GPSA study facility.

President Houska seeing no questions from the Council regarding the budget entertained a motion to approve. Corinne Wurm (Law) motioned for approval and was seconded by Amber Featherstone (English). The budget was approved.

V. Committee Reports:

- **Activities:** Secretary Lucero announced that the committee met and decided on having the socials on the second Friday of each month. The next social will be held at Play of the Day on October 12. The flyer will be emailed to department reps. Please post in your department and forward to your constituents.
- **Ad Hoc Awards:** Secretary Lucero on behalf of Vice President Lusty announced that the Ad Hoc Awards Committee will be contacted in November as the due dates for candidate nominations near. The committee will meet after the December Council meeting to collect nomination packets, and again in January during the second week of courses to combine assessments and formalize recommendations to the Executive Board.
- **Bylaws:** President Houska will be sending out an email asking his committee to look over the bylaws for any general revisions and clarity. He encourages them to review and compare our GPSA w/other higher education institution's GPSA bylaws/constitution.
- **Grants:** Secretary Lucero announced on behalf of Vice President Lusty that the grants committee is happy to report additional monies for grant use this year from President Ashley and the Dr. Ron Smith, Interim Vice President of Research and Dean of the Graduate College. A meeting has been scheduled for mid October to discuss proposed stipulations on fund distribution between research and conference participation. In the meantime, the funds available for each emergency grant cycle from our GPSA grant budget has been increased to meet the rising number of applications. We will report on the amounts allotted to each category at the November Council meeting.

For September emergency grants, the committee was able to award 7 grants in the total amount of \$3,750.

- **Publications:** Secretary Lucero announced that anyone who signed up for the publications committee has been assigned to this committee. Secretary Lucero is planning to put out the newsletter by the November 2007 GPSA meeting. She will contact the committee via email within the next few days.
- **Community Service:** Treasurer Becker announced that Tyra Jenkins is serving as co-chair and that last week the committee met to come up with community service projects. They are looking to get involved in Outdoors Nevada, which is an extension of the Public Lands Institute. GPSA can work with them to do activities out at Red Rock. Also there is a possibility of going around to local grocery stores that are discarding their fruits and vegetables and deliver these items to local shelters or other agencies.

There's a possible blanket drive in the future as well as "Seats and Feets," which would supply socks and underwear for kids at local shelters. Additionally, funds could be raised to donate an ice-cream or pizza party.

Treasurer Becker also explained that there is a pet shelter that is now added onto a local shelter and that there will be a drive for pet supplies.

Co-chair Jenkins explained that "Seats and Feets" is a program for Child Haven and has a supply clothing but no underwear and socks, so collecting and distributing these is important. This drive will start in September and end in December. There will be a box in the GPSA.

There is an event on November 17 for the “Make a Difference Day” which needs 100 to 150 volunteers. If interested in volunteering, please contact Tyra at tyra.jenkins@unlv.edu.

VI. Old Business: none

VII. New Business: none

VII. Announcements:

- Thesis & Dissertation Workshop – flyer attached
- Conference Skills Workshop – flyer attached
- Winter Commencement Speaker – flyer & application attached
- Recreation Center Activities – flyer
- GPSA Awards – flyer attached
- Library Seminar Series – flyer attached
- Regent Awards: <http://provost.unlv.edu/awards.html>
- GPSA Spring 2008 Grant Deadline – November 15th. Applications available @ <http://gpsa.unlv.edu/grants.htm>
- Student Recreation & Wellness Center – formal dedication Thursday, October 4 @ 10:30 a.m. Please RSVP by calling 895-3656
- Board of Regents meeting – October 11 & 12; Location: Las Vegas Desert Research Institute (DRI)
- Urban Sustainability Conference: October 24th Register online @ <http://urban21.unlv.edu/>
- "Focus: 50 to 100" townhall meeting schedule and comment/input posting is available at <http://planning.unlv.edu/meetings.html>

President Houska announced that there would be floor hockey from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday.

X. Public Comment:

Katrina Harris (Educational Psychology) asked how to get on next month’s agenda. President Houska said she should talk to the executive board.

Tyra Jenkins (Public Administration) handed out for free admission to any public land and announced that October 20th is National Turtle’s Day in Henderson.

Treasurer Becker asked that everyone check out Gael Hancock’s (Hospitality Administration) lecture on Tuesday night as having a labyrinth will add both cultural and aesthetic presence to the campus.

Secretary Lucero announced for Vice President Lusty that those people assigned to the Research Forum Committee should not expect to hear from the Chair until January. Please by on the lookout for updates and meeting info at the start of spring semester.

President Houska thanked everyone on the committee for passing out the information obtained in GPSA meetings as well as for serving on more than one committee.

XI. Adjournment: President Houska asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion made by Sarah Ewing (Communication Studies) and seconded by Dan Gianoutsos (Educational Leadership), the GPSA meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.